



# EUGENE BLM

## “ EYE TO THE FUTURE ”



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Planning and Project Focus

JULY 2000

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### **A Note from the District Manager**

This edition of our publication “Eye to the Future” is part of our continuing effort to keep you informed of the ongoing and proposed activities on the lands we manage in the Eugene District.

It is our intent to increase awareness of BLM issues, activities and opportunities we think are important to the public. More importantly, we are seeking ideas, comments and participation from those who are, or may be affected by our management decisions.

Our District’s employees continue active involvement on several key issues including: a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement ( FSEIS ) on Survey and Manage Species identified in the Northwest Forest Plan; development of a Off Highway Vehicle ( OHV ) Strategy; revision of Land-Use Planning Guidance; and participation on Advisory Committees and Councils. As you read this edition, you will find descriptions of several projects related to these issues.

Thanks you for you interest in BLM’s management of our Public Lands. If you have any questions on information in this edition, do not hesitate to call upon us for clarification or explanation. Your input helps us to design and implement better projects that enhance the health of the land.

You are also invited to visit our web page at: [www.edo.or.blm.gov](http://www.edo.or.blm.gov) for copies of our Annual Program Summary, Watershed Analysis, Recreation Opportunities, West Eugene Wetlands information, Environmental Assessments, and this planning newsletter just to name a few.

Julia Dougan, Acting District Manager

## National and Regional Planning Efforts

### Land -Use Planning Guidance

The BLM has proposed to develop new manual and handbook guidance to assist in the development and updating of land-use plan. The new guidance works within the framework of the existing planning regulations and does not, in any way, revise those regulations. The proposal would encourage greater public participation and make it easier for land managers to update and amend land-use plans. The proposed guidance, which emphasizes the BLM's need to work collaboratively with communities located near public lands, would also promote planning across land-ownership and administrative boundaries.

Copies of the proposed guidance are accessible from BLM's Internet Home Page at [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov). Copies of the document are also available at our office. Public comments on this proposed guidance will be accepted thru August 9, 2000.

### Strategy for Off-Highway Vehicles

The BLM is seeking ideas and comments from the public on how best to ensure environmentally responsible off-highway vehicle (OHV) use on the public lands. The BLM will develop a strategy based on public input to address land management issues prompted by the growing popularity of OHV use.

The goal of the strategy is to provide local managers a framework for addressing issues such as: current designations, regulations, resource issues, law enforcement and budget.

A critical piece of this strategies development is public participation. The public can participate by either submitting written comments or by attending a "listening meeting". Meetings will be held in Bend, Oregon on August 9, 2000 at 7 pm, or in Portland, Oregon on August 16 at 7 pm.

Information on the OHV Strategy can be reviewed by visiting the BLM's Internet Home Page at [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov). Comments will be accepted thru November 30, 2000.

### Survey and Manage Final SEIS

The Northwest Forest Plan's (NFP) Record of Decision contains standards and guidelines that required surveys for 80 Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer species prior to fiscal year 1999 ground disturbing activities. A "Finding of No Significant Impact" was signed on March 3, 1999 authorizing the delay of surveys for 32 species.

In December 1999, the BLM and US Forest Service published a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to analyze several issues related to Survey and Manage Standards and Guidelines. This issues include: clarify direction in the NFP Record of Decision, fix the Bat Roost Standard and Guideline so as to not require actions which have since been found to be harmful, provide a process for adaptive management, incorporate protection buffers and protect from grazing, and re-evaluate the species management needs.

The draft SEIS public comment period closed on March 3, 2000. The BLM and USFS are in the process of analyzing the more than 3700 comments and are drafting the final EIS. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is a partner in this effort. For more information, and to access the draft SEIS, visit ([www.or.blm.gov/nwfs.htm](http://www.or.blm.gov/nwfs.htm)).

### Exciting new project in the Eugene District is beginning

The South Valley and Coast Range Resource Areas are teaming up to develop a plan to restore natural processes in one of the Late-Successional Reserves in the Coast Range west of Eugene. This is necessarily a long-term project and we want to involve everyone in the process of designing a management program for this part of the district. You will be receiving more information about this project in the mail soon. I hope you will be able participate with us.

## West Eugene Wetlands Recreation Access and Education Plan

The West Eugene Wetlands partnership, made up of the Bureau of Land Management, the City of Eugene, and the Lane Council of Governments is in the process of developing a Recreation Access and Environmental Education Plan for the wetlands area which includes BLM, City, State and other lands generally situated in the area between Bailey Hill Road on the east, Royal Avenue on the north, west 11th ave. on the south and Greenhill Road on the west. The West Eugene Wetlands management partnership will be hosting issue identification/scoping public meetings on August 5th and August 9th, 2000 at the Amazon Community Center located at 2700 Hillyard in Eugene. The August 5th meeting will begin at 9 AM and will run until 11 AM. The August 9th meeting will begin at 7 PM and run until 9 PM. The purpose of the Recreation Access and Environmental Education Plan is to determine where and what types of recreational should be accommodated or improved in the wetlands, and to determine where and how environmental educational opportunities should be developed. Several existing plans call for developments such as the extension of the Amazon Bikeway through the wetlands toward Fern Ridge Lake following the Amazon Canal. These existing plans will be explained during the orientation portion of the public meetings. Following the orientation, there will be a facilitated opportunity for members of the public to express their interests or concerns regarding potential recreational and/or educational uses of the wetlands. Following the meetings, the planning team will consolidate issues and concerns expressed at the meetings along with written comments, to help in determining alternative management plans for the public lands in the West Eugene Wetlands area. For more information please contact Joe Williams at 541-683-6121.

## MCKENZIE RESOURCE AREA

### Lost Creek Watershed

#### <1>Lost Creek Timber Sale

**Contact:** Don Wilbur (683-6994)

**Location:** T19S, R2W, ; T19S, R1W, ; T20S, R2W, ; T20S, R1W

This project proposes to harvest approximately 15 acres of mature timber and commercially thin approximately 166 acres of 40 to 70 year managed stands within the Lost Creek Watershed. Temporary road construction would be needed to access these proposed harvest areas. This proposal was originally part of what was known as Lost Creek Analysis Area EA (which was advertised about a year ago, but the harvesting and road management proposals were delayed because the Survey & Manage survey's were not completed). **Status:** *The EA public comment period started July 5 and will end July 26.*

### Mohawk Watershed

#### <2>Off-Highway-Vehicle Trails

**Contact:** Liz Aleman (683-7578)

**Location:** Shotgun, Drury, Showalter and Cash Creek drainages

This project springs from an action item identified in the Mohawk Recreation Area Management Plan (MRAMP), whereas the BLM committed to working with interested user groups to designate a multiple-use trail system in the Mohawk Area. The project includes trail construction, maintenance, improvement and signing.

**Status:** *The public comment period has ended. The Decision record is being prepared.*

### **<3>Road Decommission and Improvement**

**Contact:** Trish Wilson (683-6448)

**Location:** Shotgun, Drury, Showalter and Cash Creek drainages

There is a proposal to decommission an estimated 11 miles of road and improve an estimated 17 miles of road. The need for action is to remove roads that are not needed within the next twenty years for management purposes and to improve roads needed for the long-term. Roads need to be removed that are no longer needed for timber management and are causing resource damage. Roads also need to be closed due to decreasing funds for road maintenance.

The amount of roads requiring maintenance needs to be reduced. Road improvements are needed because of existing safety, sedimentation and fish passage concerns.

*Status: The decision has been made. The decision record was published June 28. The appeal period ends July 28.*

### **Little Fall & Hills Creek Watersheds**

#### **<4>Little Falls/Hills Creek Watershed Analysis**

**Contact:** Don Wilbur (687-6994)

**Location:** East of Jasper

The Little Falls/Hills Creek Watershed is approximately 52,235 acres. Approximately 5,312 acres are BLM administered lands. The information that comes from a watershed analysis provides the basis for future land management activities, including monitoring and restoration programs. Also included in the watershed analysis are recommendations for managing the transportation system. Watershed analysis is not a plan but a process of gathering information to be used for future planning.

*Status: The analysis is in final review.*

#### **<5>Hills Creek Transportation Management EA**

**Contact:** Don Wilbur (687-6994)

**Location:** East of Jasper

The McKenzie Resource Area proposes to implement various road decommissioning and maintenance projects in the Hills Creek / Little Fall Creek Watersheds. The Hills Creek / Little Fall Creek watersheds are located approximately 5 miles southeast of Springfield, Oregon. This area is approximately 52,000 acres in size, of which approximately ten percent (10%) of the acres are managed by the BLM. A Watershed Analysis is being prepared to help implement the Northwest Forest Plan. The transportation management recommendations will be the basis for the Proposed Action. Road maintenance levels and road closures discussed in this transportation management recommendation would be implemented over a 5 year period of time. Approximately 20 miles of road would be maintained and in some cases upgraded or repaired for future long term use. About 12 miles of existing roads would be decommissioned, and approximately 10 miles of existing roads not needed in the future would be fully decommissioned and removed from the road inventory.

*Status: Scoping - Let us know if you have an interest in this project.*

### **McKenzie Watershed**

#### **<6>Landscape Design**

**Contact:** Trish Wilson (683-6448)

**Location:** On BLM lands, 3 miles east of Leaburg to just past Silver Creek boat ramp on both sides of the McKenzie River

The project involves BLM administered lands within the Central Cascade Adaptive Management Area (CCAMA) which includes the Bear-Marten and Vida watersheds. The project area contains 16,595 acres of BLM administered land of which 8,282 is within key watersheds. The Landscape Design is an extension of the watershed analysis. It will be used for future planning on BLM lands in the CCAMA.

*Status: We are continuing to work on this project.*

# **<7>Giustina Resources Road Right-of-way Agreement**

**Contact:** Trish Wilson (683-6448)

**Location:** T16S,R1E sections 36

**Roads:** 17-1E-1 and 16-1E-35 and 16-1E-35.1.

The McKenzie Resource Area and Giustina Resources proposed to acquire legal access over lands or roads owned or controlled by BLM. There are 80 acres of Giustina Resources land that BLM does not have legal right to use existing roads and/or construct new roads to access BLM land. Giustina Resources does not have legal access to BLM controlled roads that would allow it to access its property. Without legal access to use BLM controlled roads, Giustina Resources may have to construct more roads to access their lands than if they used BLM roads.

**Status:** *The EA is being prepared.*

# **<8>Giustina Land and Timber Road Right-Of-Way Agreement**

**Contact:** Greg Bashor (683-6232)

**Location:** T.16S.,R2E., sec 23,24, 25

T.16S.,R.3E. Sec 29, 33; T.17S.,R.3E sec 4

The McKenzie Resource Area and Giustina Land and Timber Co. Limited Partnership (GLT) proposes to consolidate and replace existing road use authorizations with a new reciprocal right-of-way agreement, E-889. The McKenzie Resource Area and GLT also propose to acquire new legal access over existing roads controlled by the other party. GLT also proposes to construct a new spur road over Bureau of Land Management (BLM) not included in the existing agreements.

**Status:** *The EA has been prepared. The public comment period started June 28 and will end July 28.*

# **COAST RANGE RESOURCE AREA**

## **Lake Creek Watershed**

### **<1>Upper Lake Creek Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) - Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP).**

**Contact:** Saundra Miles (683-6227)

**Location:** 15,000 acres above Horton to the border of the BLM Salem District, includes Hult Reservoir, also known as the Mill Pond or Hult Pond.

The SRMA is mostly in Lake Creek Watershed, but with some portions in Long Tom and South Fork Alsea.

**Status:** *The Resource Area (RA) is developing a recreation plan for this RMP designated area. A Environmental Assessment (EA) is expected to be available for public review in September 2000. If you would like to be on the mailing list contact Saundra Miles.*

### **<2>Hult Pond Bridge Replacement.**

**Contact:** Eric Meyers (683-6977)

**Location:** T.15S, R7W, Sec.26

The RA is replacing an existing bridge.

**Status:** *An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared and available for public review. The public comment period ended on 6/21/00. The Decision Record Notice was signed on 7/5/00.*

### **<3>Lake Creek Habitat Management Plan Update.**

**Contact:** Neil Armantrout (683-6451).

An HMP is expected to be out for public review this Summer. Restoration efforts noted in the HMP are planned for seven sites in Fish Creek during the Summer months 2000.

***Status: An EA for the Fish Creek project is expected to be available for review in July 2000.***

**<4> Windy Peak/Hancock Right-A-Way**

**Contact:** Cheryl Adcock (683-6145)

**Location:** T.16S, R.8W, Section 28 & 33

The proposed project would grant a Right-A-Way to construct approximately 450 feet of road on BLM managed land to access John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. property.

***Status: An Environmental Assessment is expected to be completed and available for public review by September 2000.***

**Wolf Creek Watershed**

**<5> B-Happy Commercial Thinning**

**Contact:** Phil Redlinger (683-6977)

**Location:** T.18S, R.6W, Section 33

A commercial thinning is proposed for this site, located four to five miles south of Vaughn in the Matrix Land Use Allocation. The proposed site encompasses approximately 450 acres.

***Status: The Environmental Assessment (EA) was initially released for public review in June 1999. Only one comment letter was received. A final decision has been deferred until the survey and manage requirements have been completed. The proposed action has been modified to comply with management recommendation for survey and manage species found at the project site. Surveys were completed Spring 2000 and the EA modified to reflex necessary changes. The EA is expected to be available for public review in July 2000.***

**<6> Saleratus Culvert Replacement**

**Contact:** Gary Cairns (683-6771)

**Location:** T.18S, R.8W, Sec.36

Replacement of existing culvert to improve stream hydraulics and aquatic animal passage. This is a cooperative project with Roseburg Resources and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

***Status: An Environmental Assessment supplement was prepared in March 2000.***

**Siuslaw Watershed**

**<7>Kline Creek Bridge Repair**

**Contact:** Eric Meyers (683-6499)

**Location:** T.19s, R.8W, Sec. 16

Replacement of existing wood crib abutments with concrete abutments.

***Status: An Environmental Assessment was completed and sent out for public review. The Decision Record was signed June 20, 2000.***

**<8>Mill Creek/ Esmond Creek Culvert Replacement.**

**Contact:** Brett Jones (683-6274)

Replacement of existing culverts to improve stream hydraulics and aquatic animal passage. ***Status: Environmental Assessment #EA-00-14 was prepared in March 2000. The Decision Record was signed June 19, 2000.***

**<9>Siuslaw River Stream Enhancement Projects -Cascades near North, Pugh and Fawn Creeks.**

**Contact:** Leo Poole (683-6289)

This is the second phase of a project that includes the installation of three new culverts (phase 1 - completed 1999), installation of three culverts in the Siuslaw River below the new culverts (phase 2), and stream enhancement in North and Pugh Creeks (phase three - 2001).

***Status: A supplement tiered to the existing project EA was prepared.***

**<10>Siuslaw River Stream Enhancement**

**Project - Clay Creek Campground Area**

**Contact:** Leo Poole (683-6289)

This stream enhancement project consists of installing single and clustered boulders and a few logs in a fashion that will collect spawning gravels and add complexity to the area below the park swim area.

*Status: A supplement tiered to the existing project EA was prepared.*

**<11>Esmond Creek Stream Enhancement Projects 2001**

**Contact:** Leo Poole (683-6289)

The BLM is proposing a cooperative project with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Roseburg Resources Inc. to restore degraded stream and riparian habitats in the Esmond Creek Drainage for 2001.

*Status: Environmental Assessment #EA-00-14 was prepared in March 2000. The Decision Record was signed June 19, 2000.*

**Wildcat Watershed**

**<12>Wildcat Road Decommissioning.**

**Contact:** Brett Jones (683-6274)

**Location:** Wildcat Watershed

Decommissioning of 22 miles of road within the watershed.

*Status: An Environmental Assessment is expected to be available for public review July 2000.*

**<13>Haynes Head- BLM/ Oregon Department of Forestry Cooperative Agreement.**

**Contact:** Cheryl Adcock (683-6145)

**Location:** T.17S, R.7W, Sec. 17

The purpose of the project is to grant ODF a Permit to construct 1866 feet of road on BLM managed land.

*Status: An Environmental Assessment is on hold pending the completion of the Survey and Manage EIS.*

**Lower Siuslaw Watershed**

**<14>Cannery Dune Non-native Vegetation Removal**

**Contact:** Mark Stephen (683-6439)

**Location:** BLM parcel located within the city limits of Florence. T.18S, R.12W, SE1/4 NE1/4, Will. Mer.

The BLM is proposing a non-native vegetation removal project, primarily European beachgrass and Scotch broom. The proposed project area is approximately three acres in size and contains a strip of planted European beachgrass, of variable width on the BLM parcel immediately to the north of the Sandpines Golflinks/ BLM property line. The goal of the project is to reduce the potential for the spread of non-native vegetation and maintain the open, unvegetated character of the active sand dune.

*Status: The Environmental Assessment is planned to be available for public review by August 2000.*

**SOUTH VALLEY RESOURCE AREA**

**Upper Coast Fork Willamette River Watershed**

**<1>Alton Hill Density Management Thinning**

**Contact:** Janet Zentner (683-6795)

**Location:** T.23S, R.3W, Sec. 17

A density management thinning is proposed for this site, located about four to five miles south of London Springs in the Matrix Land Use Allocation. The proposed site encompasses approximately 50 acres.

In June 1999, the Alton Hill Density Management Timber Sale Environmental Assessment (EA) No. OR090-98-23 was released for public review. Prior to a final decision, however, several survey protocols and other agency direction for certain Survey and Manage/Protection Buffer species were developed. Since that time, protocol surveys have been completed and additional analysis regarding Survey and Manage/Protection Buffer species has been conducted.

***Status: An environmental assessment has been issued and is available for a 30-day public review. The review period ends July 28, 2000. This document incorporates the most current information regarding the species found within the proposed project area, and by doing so replaces the original EA.***

## **Row River Watershed**

### **<2>Dorena Lake Density Management Thinning**

**Contact:** Janet Zentner (683-6659)

**Location:** T.20S, R.2W, Sec. 25

The proposed project would involve completing a density management thinning on approximately 70 acres in the Row River Watershed. The proposed project is about a mile east of Dorena Reservoir.

***Status: An environmental assessment has been issued and is available for a 30-day public review, ending July 28, 2000.***